

**County of Kaua'i  
Planning Department**

**General Plan Update Technical Studies  
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting #2  
Monday, April 15, 2013  
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM in Piikoi Building, Room B**

<b>TAC Members (11)</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Barbara Robeson	Community Representative	X		
Beryl Blaich	Community Representative	X		
Carl Imparato	Coalition for Responsible Government		X	
Dustin Moises	Water Department	X		
George Costa	Office of Economic Development	X		
Imai Aiu	Housing Agency	X		
Keith Nitta	Former Long-Range Planner	X		
Lyle Tabata	Deputy County Engineer	X		
Ray McCormick	State Department of Transportation	X		
Susan Tai Kaneko	Kaua'i Economic Development Board	X		
Tom Shigemoto	A&B Properties	X		

<b>Others Present (3)</b>	<b>Organization/Title</b>	<b>Present</b>
Peter Nakamura	Planner	X
Ruby Pap	Sea Grant Land Use Agent	X
Barbara Pendragon	Housing Planner	X
Ben Sullivan	Kaua'i County Energy Coordinator	X
Marisa Valenciano	Planner	X
Marie Williams	Planner	X

**Summary Minutes**

1. Presentation from Jim Dannemiller, SMS-Hawai'i Consultant for the Socio-economic Analysis and Forecast.

Jim provided an overview of SMS-Hawai'i and the other consultant staff working on the project. Since 1990 SMS-Hawai'i has been the largest information collection firm in Hawai'i. He presented preliminary baseline data from DBEDT, such as their current population projections for Kaua'i (88,700 in 2035).

Keith Nitta inquired about the components of growth. Jim said that people are the primary drivers of economic growth. In regards to determining population growth, the standard formula of natural increase plus net migration is used.

Beryl Blaich asked if DBEDT projections have proven reliable in the past. Jim said that DBEDT's projections have been too high in the past, but the current projections are more conservative and reasonable. Beryl asked if "groundtruthing" occurs when projections are developed, and Jim said that the Census is considered to be the agreed upon "ground truth" even though it is not 100 percent accurate.

Overall, Island-wide growth rates vary historically but average approximately 1 percent a year. The next step of the study is to distribute population growth to the six planning districts of North Shore, East Kaua'i, Līhu'e, Kōloa-Po'ipū-Kalāheo, Hanapēpē-Eleele, and West Side. Jim presented a graph of preliminary district allocations based on a study conducted for the Kaua'i County Multimodal Transportation Plan. According to

the study, the Līhu'e district will experience the most growth with a population increase of 51 percent. East Kaua'i and the Kōloa-Po'ipū-Kalāheo districts will also experience high levels of growth.

Barbara Roberson asked how the current household size will affect growth in housing units. Jim said that the current household size of approximately 3.0 persons per household will actually increase to 3.1, which means that slightly less housing will be needed than if a smaller persons per household number was projected.

Jim presented projections for Kaua'i visitor arrivals and visitor accommodations. He noted that visitor numbers are rebounding slowly.

Questions arose regarding the impact of transient vacation rentals on future housing needs, and how the study will assess growth in transient vacation rentals across the various districts. Jim pointed out that Kaua'i has a unique visitor profile, with a high percent of repeat visitors compared to other Hawai'i counties. He also said it will be difficult to measure the visitor population per district since visitor counts are conducted by HTA on an Island-wide basis. It might be possible to use the Visitor Plant Inventory, except that the Visitor Plant Inventory needs to be improved in order to accurately measure "Individual Vacation Units", such as transient vacation rentals.

Barbara Pendragon asked why the projections for visitor units show zero growth between 2011 and 2025. Jim said that there may have been a misunderstanding on the part of the forecasters regarding the impact of the Kaua'i County Transient Accommodation Unit Certificate Allocation Program. Barbara Pendragon suggested that the study determine the average number of visitors per unit and if projected visitor growth will drive visitors into transient vacation rentals since they house more people.

Keith Nitta said that the population projections should not be driven solely by DBEDT numbers since they have overestimated population and visitors in the past.

Lyle Tabata speculated that the cap on new transient accommodation units will force visitors into more transient vacation rentals.

Dustin Moises said that water resources are an issue impacting future growth, and they effectively serve as a cap on growth. Water capacity is low in many high growth districts. Conversely, water capacity is not an issue in certain slow growth areas.

As for the next steps of the study, Jim said that he will refine the baseline forecasts and build linkages between the forecasts. In other words, the projections will be linked so changes in one projection are tied to changes in other projections. In conclusion, Jim summarized the major outstanding issues such as fixing income projections to be more realistic and the major policy issue surrounding visitor units/population projections.

## 2. Presentation from Ruby Pap, Kaua'i County Sea Grant Land Use Agent, on the Climate Change and Coastal Hazards Assessment

Ruby gave a presentation on the scope of the Climate Change and Coastal Hazards Assessment. The overall objective of the study is to compile and summarize available science-based coastal and climate hazard information to assist in informing the Kaua'i General Plan update. The specific objectives include improved understanding of data related to climate change, identify high-priority, high-risk resilience strategies for sea level rise, identify community resilience strategies, and implement priority climate adaption strategies through the General Plan.

Ruby showed a preview of sea level rise inundation maps that are soon to be released by NOAA. The

assessment will include a gap analysis and needs assessment that will identify specific geographic areas on Kaua'i that need further climate change research and planning measures.

TAC members expressed that more outreach and education on the topic is needed, and expressed concern about the economic implications of climate change and sea level rise, including the financing implications for new development should the study release maps showing potential inundation areas.

Ruby said that more outreach and education on this topic is needed.

The meeting ended at 3:30 PM

Recorded by: Marie Williams